MAY/JUNE

1989

VOLUME 4

issue 03

THE F.L.U.G

TI ROUNDUP

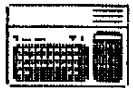
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE FOREST LANE T.I. USERS GROUP - DALLAS, TX

SUPPORTING

USERS OF THE TI-99/4A

AND COMPATIBLES



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** FLUG OFFICERS for 1989 **
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PRESIDENT:	Oscar Smith (214)227-3259	VICE-PRESIDENT:	Jim Louis (817)795-9345
SECRETARY:	Al Herring	TREASURER:	Ron Kuhlman (214)681-9597
BBS Committee:	Marty McCain	MEMBERSHIP Chairman:	Lee Dellenbaugh
NEWSLETTER Librarian:	(214)262-0452	SOFTWARE Librarian:	Sam Lee (817)572-7232
LOANER Equipment:	Jimmy Carson	MEETING PROGRAM Chairman:	Anthony Warner

JUNE MEETING INFORMATION : June 4th, 1989 2:00 p.m.

2:00	BUSINESS MEETING	: Old Business, New Business , any business
3:00	DEMOS and DISCUSSION	: Hardware/software help , explanations, demos
4:00	DISK JUGGLING	: Library access, swapping , trading
5:00	Everyone clear out	

MEETING DATES left : Jun.4th Jul.2nd Aug.6th Sept.3rd Oct.1st Nov.5th Dec.3rd

minute MINUTES - Al Herring SUNDAY MAY 7th, 1989

Called to order at 2:18pm by Oscar Smith. We opened with a discussion of membership renewals (Get that done folks!) and how we would finance the rest of the year. The Treasurer reported a current balance of $36.00. The Newsletter and BBS by Marty McCain revealed the costs of producing the N/L is now down to 18 cents copying cost; stamp still 25 cents. We have not yet published the Apr/May issue due to scarcity of funds. There are approximately 50 exchange N/L's and 56 local members. We need to cut the exchange N/L list as much as possible. Efforts are also proceeding (mostly by Marty) to index the articles of the exchange newsletters. Sounds like a good TI/Base application (Volunteers?). Most prolific and valuable newsletters come from the groups in Tornto, Vancouver and the Australian Groups. The BBS costs a minimum of $40 per month for the phone plus paper, diskettes, etc. If we could shut down the BBS for a while, until the treasury grows, would help. With the Metro line we have not gained any new metro callers. We can put the phone on vacation (from billing) for up to 3 months. Sam Lee said we might reinstate the BBS with a "Limited Service" number, 25 max outgoing calls but unlimited incomming, but it only costs about $12 per month, ideal for a BBS (but not Metro, of course).

There was a discussion of the July meeting; TI will probably be closed the first two weeks. No decision reached. Another discussion was about the P.O. Box and its cost. It is up for renewal in August. We may downsize the box or check other PO substations; rental may be cheeper where some boxes are empty. Also Marty said we could use his home address for club mail if necessary. Discussed disadvantages of using a home address. Tabled discussion for now. Marty made the motion that the BBS be suspended for up to 3 months. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously by the 12 members present. Discussion of fund raising methods: A Dinner--not enough interest for sufficient attendance, donate TI items to sell--raffle of donated items, a sales meeting--individuals selling items with a percentage of sale price going to the club, Sam said he may be developing a SuperCart, Rattle a Lifetime Club membership, Ron Kuhlman said he now has equipment to "Blow" EPROMS (for the supercart? or other members) portion of fees to the club, a library disk swap meeting--$3 on club disk- $2 on your disk,etc.

Sam Lee gave a demo of the DOM. It includes the latest version of BOOT, Xbasic from Miami UG, which now includes an E/A5 Loader. Break at 3:24pm. Break done at 3:45. Oscar will demo the Corcomp StandAlone next month. Jack Boedeker will show us TI Counts (the business accounting package) at July meeting. Marty showed his Xbasic catalogger program. It is only 50 sectors. It allows you to keep track of all your disks and where your programs are stored. Your current disk is kept in memory for instant reference. This catalogger is on the DOM. Many DOM's were sold as well as library disks. Meeting was adjourned around 5:15 pm.

BBS UPDATE

As those of you who use it might have guessed, the BBS is down. The club decided to shut it down for a few months for several reasons. Our main problem that we had with the software we were running was that it was totally dependent on someone being there with the computer to make any updates, additions, or deletions. This calls for 100% maintenance by the system operator. What we need is a program that will allow for operation of the BBS over the phone line. Plain and simple. And there are a host of BBS programs that will do this. We just need time to choose one. During the break, we will be working on one we have in mind. We should be back up early this Fall with a super BBS.

For those of you who regularly telecommunicate, you probably won't miss out on anything. If you have not already discovered, our VP Jim Louis has the ORPHAN BBS going strong at Metro(817)261-7466. This newcomer to the area BBSes has been rolling along nicely for several months now. Try it out if you haven't yet.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

We have not had any requests for any tape demonstrations, so the editing facilities are at rest. But only to a certain degree. The end of this semester has brought more time for me to finish the Texas TI Faire tapes. The final compendium shall soon be ready for viewing. Will keep you posted.

THIS FROM AN AD IN COMPUTER SHOPPER:

ALLTECH ELECTRONICS CO. INC.
1300 EAST EDINGER SUITE D
SANTA ANA, CA 92705
(714)543-5011

They have print heads for the EPSON FX,HX printers (Cat.# A24A31-E) for a nice $12.95. If you are in need, drop them a line and get the info on it.

THE LIBRARY CORNER

The following is the list of updates to the library to date. I am in the process of changing over to flippies and condensing the programs in the library. I am also in the process of making a backup of the library.

The software library catalog is available at club meetings in hardcopy for $2.00 each. It is now over 25 pages long. Programs are provided by COMPLETE DISKETTE ONLY. There is no copy fee for club members if you provide the diskette. There will be a $1.00 per diskette copy fee if we provide the disk and a copy of a diskette from the library for a NON-MEMBER will be $3.00.

I would like the following information included with any donations that we receive for the library: type of program, language and load, and a short description of the program. I need to know what kind of programs you would like for the disk of the month.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.

SAM

THE FOLLOWING FILES/DISKS HAVE BEEN ADDED OR UPDATED.

FEBRUARY 1989

E/AGAM3500, E/AGAM3501, E/AGAM3502, E/AGAM3503, E/AGAM3504, E/AGAM3505, E/AGAM3506, E/AGAM3507, E/AGAM3508, E/AGAM3509, BASCGM1500, BASCGM1501, BASCGM1502, BASCGM1503, BASCGM1504, BASCGM1505, BASCGM1506, BASCGM1507

MARCH 1989

XBSCGM2500, XBSCGM2501, XBSCGM2502, XBSCGM2503, XBSCGM2504, XBSCGM2505, XBSCGM2506, XBSCGM2507, XBSCGM2508, XBSCGM2509, XBSCGM2510, XBSCGM2511, XBSCGM2512, DOCS1000, BASCED1100, BASCED1102, BASCED1103, BASCED1104, BASCED1105, XBSCED2200, XBSCED2201, XBSCED2202, E/AEDU3550, E/AEDU3551, XBSCUT2004, XBSCUT2005, BASCUT1000, BASCUT1001

MAY 1989 : MAY89DOM

SOFTWARE NEWS

The directory maker program I spoke of in the last newsletter is finally finished, and I even have an improved version of it to update the copies I handed out at the last meeting on the Disk of the Month. This newest version allows you to not have to use the Text Editor on the output file from the DM-1000. It will accept the straight output or any modified output if you have added spaces or cleaned up the dump file. This version, 1.2, also corrects a page length error which I think existed. I just changed the variable for the number of lines of text per page from 84 to 80 or so. The variable TOPS is what we are speaking of. Anyway, if anyone wants this program, let me know. I will have it at the meeting again for anyone who wants the update. -MM

DISK FILE HAVOC : A semi-tutorial in recovering blown files by M.McCain

Let me first say that I am an average user, just like most of you. I am not the assembly wiz-master, nor the electronic master-mind. Of course, I am working a disk that will not even catalog as it is, but is accessible to certain sectors with the sector editor.

The other day I was working on this very newsletter you are reading and I saved the file back to my favorite 3.5" work disk from the text editor. After looking up after a few seconds, and the cessation of the drive spinning, I noticed the cursor was static on the text in the command line SF DSK1.MAYJUNE and it remained there too!! With little alarm, I tried the usual FCTN 4 and then QUIT. Wasted efforts. So I hit the tiny little red button beside the air vents above the GROM port, and there was my menu screen back again. Initiating a Show Directory revealed the worst: MAYJUNE 1 DIS/FIX 0. My alarm escalated to horrification. I have killed the only copy of the newsletter, and it goes to the print shop the day after tomorrow!

Now enter the sector editor. Digging through the binder of documentation for the various programs I have, I finally found what I was looking for: a Disk Directory Map. This particular one handles info about the VIB, DLM, and FDRs, and was just what I wanted since my effort at Recovering File with the disk manager did not work. I took a look at the first couple of sectors, and found the fifth one spelled out MAYJUNE in ASCII. Switching to hex, I saw a screen full of zeroes where I knew there should be an assorment of hexadecimal characters. Now came the task: filling in the correct information in the correct locations to reconstruct this file descriptor record. I started looking at the sectors after >21 on the disk, and made a notation of the sectors which appeared to have my newsletter text: 6C-6D, 75-9F, and A9. This indicated the file was in three blocks out there in sectorland. Back to the FDR I went. Byte >00->09 was o.k., it had the name of the file. >0C should have had >80 for D/V but was >00 like the rest, and hence, the D/F file type. >13 needs the #of records per sector. (255/80=3.1875 so we choose >03) >0E->0F wants the #of

sectors per file. Well, the last directory I did showed it 43 sectors long, so minus one for the FDR=42 =>2A. >10 is the EOF offset so I looked at how far my text went in the sector >A9 and put that there. >11 is the record size =80 =>50. >12->13 is the #of records per file. >1C->1E is the first block link, >1F->21 is the second, and so on. And now, the tricky part is the deciphering of how to write the link reference. You incorporate the start sector, and block end of file in these three bytes in a manner detailed by the example below:

```
        abc
Start   >075  My second block goes from >75->9F which is >2A sectors. This is
length  >029  coded as >075 + >029 more makes >9F. The link reference is written
        def   with the nybbles a,b,c,d,e, and f in this order: bcfade
```

so my second link reference is entered as >759002. And once this was re-written to the sector, all came up fine and dandy with the directory of the disk.

Last was the acid test. Back to the text editor and load the file. Up came MAYJUNE just like I had tried to save it. Recovered, and spared, I thanked the bits that were in my favor. Being the first time I have ever recovered a file in this manner, I was so inspired to write this article. Now I have seen the light, I will play around and work on a certain disk that someone (who will remain anonymous) put a staple through and try to recover a file or two off of a disk that will not even catalog as it is, but is accessible to certain sectors with the sector editor.

TELECOMMUNICATION PROGRESS

The following information comes to you from the PARASOFT BBS here in Columbia, which location got it from somewhere else, etc etc .....

Starlink Communications, a division of GTC, Incorporated of Virginia Beach, VA, recently announced a new asynchronous outdial service aimed at the personal computer owner who uses his computer for leisure time communications with computer Bulletin Board Systems (BBSes).

Starlink utilizes the Tymnet international packet switching network, a service of McDonnell Douglas Network Systems Company (MDNSC). MDNSC owns and operates the TYMNET Public Data Communications Network, one of the world's largest and most powerful networks. McDonnell Douglas is also a leading supplier of private networks for government agencies, financial institutions, and large manufacturers.MDNSC is an integral part of the networking portion of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems Company (MDISC). 1988 revenues for MDISC exceeded 1.3 billion dollars. GTC also publishes electronic magazines for BBS operators including BBS Telecomputing News, SpectrumMagazine, Galaxy Sports Rap and Galaxy Headline News.

"We've found that there is a great deal of concern among modem users who previously used a competing service that has recently raised its rates", Starlink spokesman, Tom Scott, said. "By utilizing the TYMNET network, we can not only offer competitive pricing, but the superior, cleaner network connections of TYMNET. In addition, TYMNET services more than three times the number of cities that the other service offers", he added. After establishing an account with Starlink, a user has his computer call his local Tymnet access number, enters his Starlink account number, password, and the appropriate city code. He is then connected to a modem in that city and dials a BBS exactly as if he was making a local call.There is a one time signup/registration fee of $25, a monthly account maintenance fee of $10 and a $1.50 per hour charge for connect time. There is no minimum usage charge and a user may use as much or as little time per month as he desires at the $1.50 per hour rate. Rates are slightly higher from Hawaii, Alaska and Canada.

There are over 800 local access numbers, most offering 2400 baud access and some offering 9600 baud access. <Ed. note: This file with the cities offered for access can be downloaded on the Orphan BBS in the newsletter section.>

GTC also operates the Galaxy Information Network , a nationally accessable Bulletin Board System reachable through Starlink. This BBS offers up-to-the minute national, international, sports and entertainment news, a large file library, active message bulletin boards, electronic mail, special interest group discussions on a variety of subjects, an outlink facility for connection to other service providers, a selection of on-line games including live interactive poker and a multi-user teleconference feature for "chatting" with other users.

The Galaxy Information Network charges $2.00 per hour for connect time. When the Starlink charges are added, the total charge for using Galaxy is $3.50 per hour making Galaxy one of the lowestpriced national services. Regular weekly events are scheduled including the Wednesday Night Poker Game, the Friday Night Hot Tub Party, the Monday Night Chat, and more.Starlink's method of payment is by credit card or Checkfree direct bank account debit. User's may sign up for service by calling 800-321-0156 by voice or 804-495-1NFO by computer. Usernames and passwords are usually issued within 24 hours if signing up by credit card.

REGISTRATION: STARLINK registration is a one-time non-refundable fee of $25.00. USAGE: All STARLINK accounts are charged a monthly $10.00 service fee. Users in the Continental U.S. are charged $1.50/hr and NO-KCHAR fee. STARLINK Hawaii accounts are charged $1.50/hr and $.02/Kchar. STARLINK Alaska accounts are charged $2.50/hr and $.05.Kchar. STARLINK Canada accounts are charged $3.00/hr and $.02/Kchar. These charges are for usage from 7pm - 6am Monday - Friday, all day Saturday , Sunday, and major U.S. holidays based on your local access time zone. Charges for prime time are $20.00/hr and $.10/Kchar.

OTHER FEES: Change of Password, ID, or Username: $20.00. Detailed Billing : $5.00. Dishonored Checking Debit or CreditCard Charge: $20.00. TELCO CHARGES, IF ANY, WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR BILL. PLEASE CONTACT THE TELCO OPERATOR OF THE OUTDIAL CITY IN QUESTION FOR ASSISTANCE.

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Has you membership expired? Does it run out this month? Check the mailing label on the front of your newsletter. Your membership expires with the close of the month of the year indicated. Take care of it now while you remember. Just drop us a check or money order to the address indicated below and let us know you want our continued support. Your $20 a year allows us to provide you with the materials to make your TI-99/4a work for you!!!! Remember, this is a non-profit organization. We are run by volunteers who give their time and efforts to make this organization possible. We need your support, monetarily or otherwise to keep the system working. Please take the time to show that you care. Help us help you. Thanks.

NAME: _____ Phone# ( )

Send to : F.L.U.G. * P.O. Box 743005 * Dallas, TX 75374-3005

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDANCE AND EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO :

The Forest Lane Users Group P.O. Box 743005 Dallas, TX 75374-3005

GROUP BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

Metro (214) 263 - 7648 24 Hours 300/1200 Baud
Logon 8N1 and follow directions to gain access. Open to everyone. Limited access for non-group members. Supports Xmodem transfer capability.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership to the Forest Lane Users Group includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter mailed to you, full access to the FLUG TEXLINK BBS, access to the FLUG software library of public domain and fairware programs, as well as many other benefits. Annual memberships are $20. For more info. please contact the BBS or drop a card in the mail to the membership chairman.

NEWSLETTER INPUT

Please send all newsletter input, articles, pictures, files, or letters to the Newsletter Editor at the PO Box. If able, please upload any materials to the BBS. All material for the next issue must be received no later than two weeks before the meeting date in order to make the deadline.

FLUG MEETING INFO

Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the SC Cafeteria at the main TI plant on Central Expressway and LBJ Freeway in North Dallas. Just east of Central Expressway on LBJ (I635) is the Floyd Rd. exit. Take this down to the stoplight, and turn left into Floyd Rd. Go thru the next light (Walnut) on to a flashing light and turn left into the TI plant The Texins Activity Center will be on your right after you have turned off Floyd Rd. Past the Center on about 100 ft. is a stop sign, and just past that is a covered walkway on the right. A sign on the walkway will read Employment Center. Park across the street from the end of the walkway and follow the covered walk to the SC Cafeteria building. This bldg. also contains the TI Health center, the TI Employment center, and conference rooms. Take the door on the left and enter into a hallway through an electronic door. Down the hall there will be the cafeteria and the conference rooms are located diagonally up to the right. Signs are posted directing the way. Please try to show up about before 2:00 as we begin promptly.

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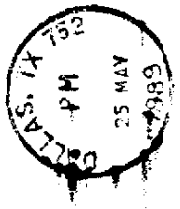

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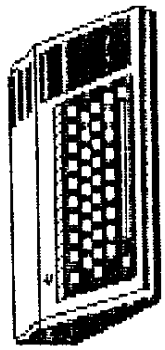

TEXLINK BBS

On Vacation 3 mos.